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Items 8 and 9 of the provisional agenda*

Review of the achievements in the implementation and results of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s

Renewal of the commitment and future action for children in the next decade

Letter dated 6 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 28 March 2002 requesting the circulation of the declaration entitled Yokohama Global Commitment 2001, adopted at the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, in Yokohama from 17 to 20 December 2001.

Since the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly will soon commence, I have further the honour to bring to your attention the Final Appeal of Children and Young People (see annex), which was presented by children and youth at the closing session of the Congress. The Appeal is an indispensable part of the outcome of the Congress.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the Appeal circulated as a document of the twenty-seventh special session under items 8 and 9 of the provisional agenda (A/S-27/1/Rev.1), "Review of the achievements in the implementation and results of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s" and "Renewal of commitment and future action for children in the next decade".

(*Signed*) Yukio **Satoh**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

* A/S-27/1/Rev.1.

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Annex to the letter dated 6 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Final Appeal of Children and Young People (Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Yokohama, Japan, 17-20 December 2001)

At the end of the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, the whole world still has a gigantic question to answer: when shall we have a world in which life is based on a sense of caring, sharing, true love and the protection of all societies and individuals from all forms of abuse, discrimination and exploitation? A world free from commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The importance of the participation of children and young people cannot be overemphasized with particular reference to the experience of young people, who really are the experts on the issue at hand. This is therefore a giant step in the right direction for those who feel they know the issue best. However, there is still the need for the voices of the children and young people present here today, and of those who cannot be here physically, to be fully considered and incorporated in all agendas for action.

As mentioned by many speakers, those affected directly or indirectly are waiting to hear, see and believe in the actions we are going to take as we leave these very comfortable chairs we are currently sitting on. Where do we go from here? It need not be a question for anyone to ponder now. We expect that everyone is leaving Yokohama with a clear sense of direction as to how we, together, are going to make this world a better place to live.

As the Congress is declared closed, as we leave this room, as we hug each other, as we shake hands, as we pack our luggage, as we depart for our various destinations, in the planes and cars, as we arrive, as we report to our Governments, NGOs and agencies, as we draw up our budgets, as we plan our activities, as we implement, monitor, evaluate and re-plan, please, for the sake of the children and young people of the world, consider the following points:

1. Education, life skills development, awareness-raising and advocacy about the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) for all sexes and age groups should be one of the most important components of all prevention efforts.

2. Government support for children's and young people's participation in terms of funding, legislation and human resource development brings us one step closer to finding solutions that are more effective, more appropriate and more sustainable.

3. There is a need to address gender issues in CSEC, because the way we raise boys and girls in our communities creates male-dominant societies that allow the commercial sexual exploitation of both girls and boys, including children who identify as homosexual, transgendered or transsexual.

4. Governments and communities must begin to seriously fight corruption, as it is not only a barrier in our struggle to eliminate CSEC but also a contributing factor to the continued growth of CSEC.

5. Multisectoral cooperation in the fight against CSEC is invaluable. The sharing of knowledge, resources and skills by government agencies, NGOs, community organizations, children and young people's organizations allows us to increase our reach and multiply our strength.

6. The causes of CSEC are multiple and have an interactive and dynamic relationship. Decisions and actions are better informed by comprehensive research efforts, especially on the demand factors (people who buy sex from children).

7. Efforts must be made to ensure that exploiters are the ones punished, not children and young people who have been exploited.

8. There is a need for better harmonization of national legislation in line with international treaties and cooperation between law enforcement agencies at all levels, as well as strict enforcement, monitoring and evaluation of these laws.

9. The media has a crucial role to play in the eradication of CSEC. Media personnel should endeavour to make provisions for air time, print space or cyberspace that would educate the general public about CSEC and related issues, and facilitate the effective participation of young people.

10. Positive cultural, traditional and religious values should be used in the fight against CSEC and to eliminate the practices that are harmful or that make children vulnerable to CSEC.

11. Our cultures are wellsprings of creative ideas and effective means for fighting CSEC. Programmes that aim to combat CSEC should take into consideration this cultural, political and economic diversity, as well as individual differences.

12. There is a need for relevant, long-term, comprehensive and accessible services for those who experience commercial sexual exploitation and who need exiting points and healing.

13. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child must be used as a guiding tool for all legislation, plans of action and services related to the fight against CSEC. We believe that if children's rights to survival, development, protection and participation are not ensured, we can NEVER eliminate CSEC.

This Appeal is on behalf of all the children and young people of the world to Governments and agencies all over the world, and we expect the Governments and agencies to exhibit their political will to implement the commitments to fight CSEC.

We commit ourselves to share the outcomes with other countries, NGOs and other young people and children that are not present here.

We promise to exert efforts to build a network of children and young people across the globe, and to initiate a fund to facilitate the implementation of CSEC-related activities worldwide.

As we finally appeal for the recognition of the above points, we encourage all parties to donate to the fund and consider the possibilities of observing a day in recognition of the worldwide struggle against CSEC.